substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl and X is a covalent bond, O, NH, or NHCO.

20 (New). An N-acyl peptide according to claim 19, wherein R is optionally substituted alkanoyl or aroyl.

21 (New). An N-acyl peptide according to claim 20, wherein the acyl radical is selected from octanoyl, monomethoxysuccinyl, carbobenzoxy (benzyl-O-CO-), acetylaminocaproyl, Fmoc (fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl), naphthyl-NH-CO- and adamantyl-NH-CO.

22 (New). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a CRP-derived peptide according to claim 15, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

23 (New). A method for the treatment of a chronic inflammatory condition which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a peptide according to claim 15.

24 (New). A method according to claim 23, wherein the chronic inflammatory condition is rheumatoid arthritis, pulmonary emphysema or cystic fibrosis.

REMARKS

Claims 2-9 and 12-24 presently appear in this case. No claims have been allowed, although claims 5-8 have been objected to, but indicated to be allowable if re-written in

independent form. The Advisory Action of December 6, 2001, has now been carefully studied. Entry of applicants' amendment of November 21, 2001, as requested in the continued prosecution application request transmittal of January 22, 2002, as supplemented by the amendments made herewith, and reconsideration and allowance of this case are respectfully urged.

In the Advisory Action of January 31, 2002, the examiner stated that Barr teaches fragments of the alpha-1 antitrypsin protein in which the fragment is not more than 200 amino acids and includes the active site which would include the claimed peptides. The claims have now been amended so as not to read on this portion of the disclosure of Barr, or any other part of the disclosure of Barr. Claim 1 has been divided into new claims 14 and 15. At page 6 of the present specification, lines 9-12, it is stated that the residue Val_{94} is preferred for inhibiting hLE while Phe or His is preferred for inhibiting hCG. New claim 14 specifies that at position 94 the residue must be Phe, His, (D)Val, (D)Ala, (D)His, or (D)Phe. As Barr does not disclose Phe or His at this position, or the use of any D-amino acids, claim 14 is not anticipated by Barr.

Furthermore, page 6 of the specification, at lines 14-18, states that preferred peptides are those in which His_{95}

is substituted by Phe. Barr only covers Thr at position 95. Accordingly, new claim 15 has been submitted which leaves the whole range of possibilities for position 94, but the possibilities for position 95 do not include Thr. Accordingly, claim 15 is also not covered and/or not anticipated by Barr. A new set of depending claims has also been added dependent from new claim 15.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth in applicants' amendment of November 21, 2001, as supplemented herein, reconsideration of all of the rejections of record and passage for the present application to issue are earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Respectfully submitted,

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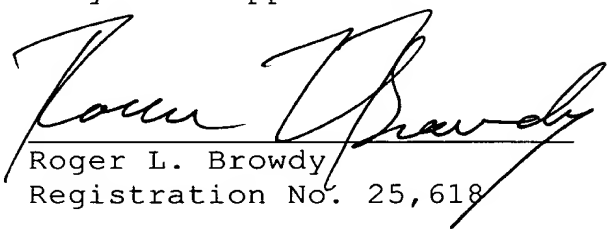
Attorneys for Applicants

By 
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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 have been deleted.

2 (Amended). A peptide according to claim ~~1~~14, wherein the hydrophobic amino acid residue is selected from ~~a~~ the group of residues ~~comprising~~ consisting of Leu, Ile, Val, Phe, Tyr, Nle and Nva.

3 (Amended). A peptide according to claim ~~1(ix)~~14(C), wherein the peptide is elongated by additional amino acid residues at the N-terminal.

4 (Amended). A peptide according to claim 3, wherein the additional amino acid residues constitute sequences of the human CRP.

5 (Amended). An N-acyl peptide according to claim ~~1(xi)~~14(D), wherein acyl is a radical R-X-CO-, wherein R is substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl and X is a covalent bond, O, NH, or NHCO.

6 (Amended). An N-acyl peptide according to claim 5, wherein R is optionally substituted alkanoyl or aroyl.

7 (Amended). An N-acyl peptide according to claim 6, wherein the acyl radical is selected from octanoyl, monomethoxysuccinyl, carbobenzoxy (benzyl-O-CO-), acetylaminocaproyl, Fmoc (fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl), naphthyl-NH-CO- and adamantyl-NH-CO.

8 ~~(Amended)~~ (Twice Amended). A peptide according to claim ~~1~~14, selected from the group of sequences consisting of:

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (residues 89-96 of SEQ ID NO:3)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-(D)His-Ile

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-(D)Val-His-Ile

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-(D)Val-(D)His-Ile

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-Ser-Ile (SEQ ID NO:8)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-Phe-Ile (SEQ ID NO:9)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO:13)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile-Pro-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO:10)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Phe-His-Ile-Pro-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO:11)

Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile-Pro-Pro-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO:12)

MeOSuc-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

MeOSuc-Phe-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:14)

Octanoyl-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

Acetylaminocaproyl-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

AdamantylNH-CO-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

α-Naphthyl-NH-CO-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

CBz-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

CBz-Phe-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:14)

Fmoc-Val-Thr-Val-Ala-Pro-Val-His-Ile (SEQ ID NO:13)

wherein CBz is carbobenzoxy, MeOSuc is monomethoxysuccinyl and Fmoc is 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl.

9 (Amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a CRP-derived peptide according to claim ~~1~~14, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12 (Amended). A method for the treatment of a chronic inflammatory condition which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a peptide according to claim ~~1~~14.

13 (Amended). A method according to claim 12, wherein the chronic inflammatory condition is rheumatoid arthritis, pulmonary emphysema or cystic fibrosis.

Claims 14-24 have been added as new claims.